(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date 1 July 2004 (01.07.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2004/055486 A1

(51) International Patent Classification7:

G01G 15/00

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/GB2003/005475

(22) International Filing Date:

16 December 2003 (16.12.2003)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

0229270.4

16 December 2002 (16.12.2002) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ISHIDA EUROPE LIMITED [GB/GB]; 11 Kettles Wood Drive, Woodgate Business Park, Birmingham B32 3DB (GB).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): TIMINGS, Bernard, Austin [GB/GB]; 5 Church Hill, Stretton-On-Dunsmore, Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 9NA (GB). (74) Agent: GILL JENNINGS & EVERY; Broadgate House, 7 Eldon Street, London EC2M 7LH (GB).

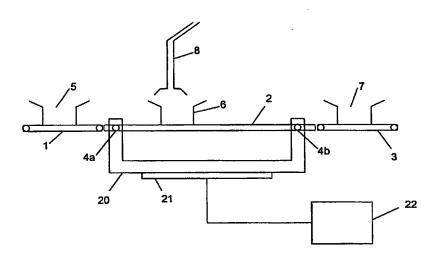
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: WEIGHT CHECKING METHOD AND APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: A method for determining the quantity of items in a container is described, where each item has the same nominal weight located between upper and lower weight limits. The method comprises the following steps: (a) attempting to pack a predetermined quantity, n, of the items to the container, the predetermined quantity, n, being selected such that the product of (n+1) and the lower weight limit exceeds the product of n and the upper weight limit and such that the product of n and the lower weight limit exceeds the product of (n-1) and the upper weight limit; (b) measuring the weight of the actual quantity of items packed in the container in step (a); and, (c) dividing the value of the weight ascertained in step (b) by the nominal weight to determine the actual quantity of items packed in the container in step (a).

